

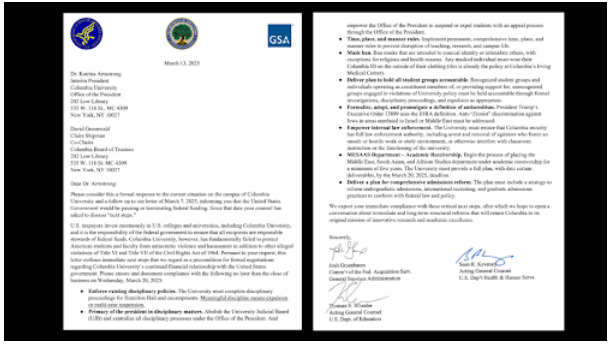
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Thursday, March 13, 2025

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding



Text of letter:

March 13, 2025
Dr. Katrina Armstrong
Interim President
Columbia University
Office of the President
202 Low Library
535 W. 116 St., MC 4309
New York, NY 10027

David Greenwald
Claire Shipman
Co-Chairs
Columbia Board of Trustees
202 Low Library
535 W. 116 St. MC 4309
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dr. Armstrong:

Please consider this a formal response to the current situation on the campus of Columbia University and a follow up to our letter of March 7, 2025, informing you that the United States Government would be pausing or terminating federal funding. Since that date your counsel has asked to discuss "next steps."

U.S. taxpayers invest enormously in U.S. colleges and universities, including Columbia University, and it is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that all recipients are responsible stewards of federal funds. Columbia University, however, has fundamentally failed to protect American students and faculty from antisemitic violence and harassment in addition to other alleged violations of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Pursuant to your request, this letter outlines immediate next steps that we regard as a precondition for formal negotiations regarding Columbia University's continued financial relationship with the United States government. Please ensure and document compliance with the following no later than the close of business on Wednesday, March 20, 2025:

- Enforce existing disciplinary policies. The University must complete disciplinary proceedings for Hamilton Hall and encampments. Meaningful discipline means expulsion or multi-year suspension.
- Primacy of the president in disciplinary matters. Abolish the University Judicial Board (UJB) and centralize all disciplinary processes under the Office of the President. And empower the Office of the President to suspend or expel students with an appeal process through the Office of the President.
- Time, place, and manner rules. Implement permanent, comprehensive time, place, and manner rules to prevent disruption of teaching, research, and campus life.
- Mask ban. Ban masks that are intended to conceal identity or intimidate others, with exceptions for religious and health reasons. Any masked individual must wear their Columbia ID on the outside of their clothing (this is already the policy at Columbia's Irving Medical Center).

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon
- Council of UC Faculty Associations Resolution Against ICE Raids and Deportations
- Faculty Association Town Hall on Funding Cuts – March 13 at 6pm
- Once Again, It's Time for California to Lead

Remaking the University

- Where There are No Universities (Guest Post) - 3/31/2025
- Finding "Dear Colleagues" within the Autocratic Academy (Guest Post) - 3/28/2025
- Liner Note 20: After Columbia's Betrayal - 3/22/2025

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- Deliver plan to hold all student groups accountable. Recognized student groups and individuals operating as constituent members of, or providing support for, unrecognized groups engaged in violations of University policy must be held accountable through formal investigations, disciplinary proceedings, and expulsion as appropriate.
- Formalize, adopt, and promulgate a definition of antisemitism. President Trump’s Executive Order 13899 uses the IHRA definition. Anti-“Zionist” discrimination against Jews in areas unrelated to Israel or Middle East must be addressed.
- Empower internal law enforcement. The University must ensure that Columbia security has full law enforcement authority, including arrest and removal of agitators who foster an unsafe or hostile work or study environment, or otherwise interfere with classroom instruction or the functioning of the university.
- MESAAS Department – Academic Receivership. Begin the process of placing the Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies department under academic receivership for a minimum of five years. The University must provide a full plan, with date certain deliverables, by the March 20, 2025, deadline.
- Deliver a plan for comprehensive admissions reform. The plan must include a strategy to reform undergraduate admissions, international recruiting, and graduate admissions practices to conform with federal law and policy.

We expect your immediate compliance with these critical next steps, after which we hope to open a conversation about immediate and long-term structural reforms that will return Columbia to its original mission of innovative research and academic excellence.

Sincerely

Josh Gruenbaum
Comm’r of Fed. Acquisition Serv.
General Services Administration

Sean R. Keveney
Acting General Counsel
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Serv.

Thomas E. Wheeler
Acting General Counsel
U.S. Dept. of Education

Source: <https://ia800402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Letter%20to%20Columbia%20-%20Conditions%20for%20restoration%20of%20funding%203-13-2025.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:09 PM

No comments:



Labels: Columbia, diversity, politics

San Diego Freeze - Part 2



From the [Union-Tribune](#): *Reeling from hundreds of millions in potential budget cuts, UC San Diego has decided it can't and won't guarantee that the first-year graduate students who enroll this fall will get their full stipends and tuition. The university is sending admissions letters to prospective students with a newly-added clause that says, "The funding commitment stated in this letter may be modified, reduced, or rescinded and is not guaranteed."*

It's a startling departure for UCSD, which last year pulled in about \$2.3 billion in research grants and philanthropic gifts. The school has long guaranteed full stipends and tuition for doctoral and master of fine arts students.

...UCSD has said it expects a \$55 million state budget cut, based on Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget, and at least \$150 million in cuts from the National Institutes of Health. The campus gets, on average, about \$50 million a month from the agency.

Funding from the National Science Foundation could also be cut, and the NIH has begun to cancel active research grants in areas the Trump administration opposes... The university, which has more than 41,000 workers, has already frozen most faculty hiring and done the same for staff, except for those working in the university's huge health care system...

Full story at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/03/08/ucsd-facing-federal-cuts-will-no-longer-guarantee-funding-for-incoming-grad-students/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM

No comments:



Labels: governor, politics, UC budget crisis, UC-San Diego

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Contributors

-  California Policy Issues
-  Toby Higbie
-  UCLA Faculty Association



UC Retirement Process:

Today at noon:

https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_urcsDgIDSS2tgi7VbzV1NA#/registration

Today at 5 PM:

https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZHNABD1RSm2CGdZi6QN3HQ#/registration

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [uc retirement](#)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Supporting Our Immigrant and International Communities at UCLA



Email circulated today entitled 'Supporting Our Immigrant and International Communities at UCLA':

Dear Bruin Community:

Over the past several weeks, the [UCLA Connects: Listening Exercise](#) has brought together more than 2,100 Bruins from different schools and units. The conversations at these sessions show a deep care for our community, and there is a resounding sentiment that comes up in every meeting: Our Bruin family is facing tremendous uncertainty and anxiety due to rapidly changing federal immigration policies.

In this climate, we want to reaffirm to our immigrant and international Bruins: **You are not alone.** You belong at UCLA. You are an essential part of our community, and we remain fully committed to supporting your ability to work, learn, teach and thrive here. We see you, we value you and we will continue to advocate for your rights and well-being.

Through our [Undocumented Student Program \(USP\)](#), [Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars](#) and other campus units, UCLA is working directly with the students, faculty and staff who may be impacted by federal policy changes. We also want to make the broader UCLA community aware of important resources and actions that the university is taking.

Our Commitment and Advocacy

Campus leaders are closely monitoring immigration actions and policy changes alongside our colleagues across the University of California system. We are working with elected officials to advocate for the rights and safety of our community members.

Supporting Undocumented Bruins

We stand alongside our colleagues throughout the UC system in our support of undocumented members of our community. Here are some things you should know:

Federal law protects student privacy rights, and the California Constitution and statutes provide broad privacy protection to all members of the UCLA community. Our university policies provide additional privacy protections.

UCLA **does not** release immigration status or related information from confidential student records without a judicial warrant, subpoena, court order or as otherwise required by law. Any such request would be carefully reviewed in collaboration with our Office of General Counsel.

If ICE Officials Come to Campus

We know that concerns about potential immigration enforcement actions can be frightening. We have received questions about what to do if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials come to campus. The university has prepared resources on this topic that we urge you to read:

- [How to respond to immigration officers on campus – for faculty and staff](#)
- [How to respond to immigration officers on campus – for students](#)
- [UC FAQs on possible federal immigration enforcement actions on UC property](#)
- [UC 'Know Your Rights' printable card](#)

Stay Informed and Connected

As immigration policies continue to evolve, we encourage you to visit [UCLA's federal updates web page](#) and the [UC systemwide federal updates web page](#) to follow developments and find information. Additional resources are listed below.

UCLA's excellence relies on our global engagement and the contributions of our diverse students, faculty and staff from nearly every corner of the world. All of these individuals and their families deserve safety, stability and support. We will face this period of uncertainty by remaining connected, keeping kindness in our hearts and always supporting one another as Bruins.

We are One UCLA,

Julio Frenk

Chancellor

Darnell Hunt

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Adriana Galván

Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education

Monroe Gordon, Jr.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Brian Kite

Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education

Michael S. Levine

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Personnel

Posted by California Policy Issues at [10:35 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [UCLA](#)

NIL Battle to Resolve in April (maybe)

From [USA Today](#): *U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken is set to hold a final-approval hearing on April 7 concerning the agreements, which would include nearly \$2.8 billion in damages that would go to current and former athletes over 10 years. They also would allow Division I schools to start paying athletes directly for use of their name, image and likeness (NIL) during the 2025-*



26 school year, subject to a per-school cap that would increase over time and be based on a percentage of certain athletics revenues.

More than 70 objections were filed with the court in January, including those that were dated by a Jan. 31 deadline, but did not enter the court record until weeks later. In addition, nearly 350 current or former athletes who could have participated in the

proposed settlement have opted out, with several new lawsuits against the NCAA being spawned as a result.

Many of the objections were centered — sometimes in emotional, personal terms — on the sport-by-sport roster limits that would go into place for schools that participate in the settlement and begin making NIL deals with their athletes. The limits are likely to result in hundreds, if not thousands, of current walk-on athletes losing their places on Division I teams. The roster limits would be accompanied by the elimination of sport-by-sport scholarship limits that currently exist for all NCAA Division I schools.

Among the array of other objections were arguments that the per-school cap on NIL payments to athlete would just constitute another antitrust violation, the damages claims are being settled for too little money, and the allocation of damages payments discriminates against female athletes and sets the stage for future Title IX violations as schools set up allocations of NIL payments...

Full story at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/2025/03/03/college-sports-revenue-sharing-house-settlement-objections-response/81262729007/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [athletics](#)

CUCFA Town Hall

A CUCFA Town Hall will take place tomorrow on the ongoing threats to federal research funding and the state's current proposal to cut a further 8% from the UC system's budget.

Who: All UC Senate Faculty

What: Council of UC Faculty Associations (CUCFA) Statewide Town Hall on threats to Federal Funding

When: Thursday, March 13th, 6 pm

Where: Zoom - Please register in advance at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/n3moq5vvRXIyJzUf0_oTEQ.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [politics](#), [UC budget crisis](#)

Cut in Half

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): The Education Department is moving to lay off nearly 50 percent of its more than 4,100 employees as of Tuesday evening, according to four sources inside the agency who were told about the plans...

Higher education groups and advocates have warned that cutting staff and programs at the department would be catastrophic for institutions and students, though critics say the agency is in need of a serious overhaul. State higher education officials, university administrators, nonprofit advocacy groups and students depend on the Education Department to oversee federal student aid, manage the student loan portfolio, investigate civil rights complaints and allocate billions of dollars in institutional aid, among other operations. The department, which has an \$80 billion discretionary budget, issues about \$100 billion in student loans every year and more than \$30 billion in Pell Grants.

The massive personnel cuts—the largest in the department's history—will likely impact most agencies and offices in the department, including the Office of Federal Student Aid, sources say. Within FSA, the cuts will be most severe among teams that work directly on policy and



higher education oversight, including the Ombudsman Office, which investigates complaints into student loan practices and financial aid...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/03/11/education-department-reduce-staff-half>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments:     

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